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**Letter dated 25 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the decisions of the extraordinary session of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism of Sudan and South Sudan, held in Addis Ababa on 24 September 2018 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omer Dahab Fadl **Mohamed**
Permanent Representative

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## Annex to the letter dated 25 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

## Decisions of the extraordinary session of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism

**Addis Ababa, 24 September 2018**

1. The Joint Political and Security Mechanism (JPSM) of Sudan and South Sudan was convened in an Extraordinary Session in Addis Ababa by the African Union High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP). The meeting was chaired by H.E. President Thabo Mbeki, Chairperson of the Panel. The delegation of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan was led by Gen. Kuol Manyang, the Minister of Defence, while the Government of Sudan (GoS) delegation was led by Lt. Gen. (Psc) Jamal Eldin Omer Mohamed, Assistant Minister of Defence. In attendance were representatives of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), the Office of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General to Sudan and South Sudan and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

2. On behalf of the Government of Sudan, Lt. Gen. Jamal Eldin Omer Mohamed welcomed the signing by the South Sudanese parties of the Revitalised Agreement of the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan. He reiterated that the efforts of the JPSM were in line with the 2012 Cooperation Agreements whose objective was to lay a foundation for the creation of two viable neighbouring states at peace with each other. The SDBZ and other security arrangements, including the JBVMM and the UNISFA were an essential component of that Agreement. Sudan was committed to cooperating with UNISFA and work through the JBVMM to pursue sustainable peace through these instruments.

3. Minister Kuol Manyang, reported on the progress made in the implementation of the JPSM decisions since the last Extraordinary meeting of 5 March 2018. He noted the continuing improvements in relations between the two countries and their armies and pledged that this would continue. The nationals of the two States were moving freely between the two countries and some were taking up employment and undertaking economic activities among other things. The signing of the Revitalised Agreement of the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan ensures that all groups are now part of the peace process in South Sudan, and this will have a bearing on the operationalisation of the SDBZ.

4. The Minister outlined the challenges still facing the implementation of the JPSM decisions on the SDBZ, including the difficulty in allaying concerns of communities about the status of the international boundary, and called for prioritization of the work of the Joint Border Commission and the Joint Demarcation Committee to enable the international boundary to be clarified and demarcated.

5. The Meeting received a briefing from UNISFA on the developments since the last meeting of the JPSM in 5 March 2018. The report noted that UNISFA had received standing approval for all its flights. There was 100% timely approval of Aerial Monitoring Missions, and all cancellations were due exclusively to administrative and technical reasons. Ground Monitoring Missions were continuing. Challenges included difficult relations with some communities including in Gok Machar, Sumayah/Majak-woi in the 14 Mile Area. UNISFA had detected the presence of some forces within the SDBZ. There was a need to address the outstanding challenges and to enhance sensitisation efforts.

**The meeting took the following Decisions:**

**1. In relation to the Benchmarks identified by the UN Security Council:**

**1.1. Benchmark 1**

Issue: **Restriction of movement in Gok Machar**

Decision:

Government of South Sudan to establish a High-level Team by 1 October 2018, in coordination with the Ad-hoc Committee of the 14-Mile Area, to sensitize the communities to enable ground movement by UNISFA from Gok Machar into the SDBZ by 10 October 2018.

**1.2. Benchmark 2**

Issue: **Establishment of four Team Sites**

Decisions:

1) **Safahah/Kiir Adem**: To address the concerns of the communities, the team established under benchmark 1 will also undertake sensitization to enable the full establishment of the team site within the same timeframe.

2) **As Sumayah/Wierayen**: To address the concerns of the communities, the team established under Benchmark 1 will also carry out sensitization to enable the full establishment of the Team Site.

3) **Abu Qussa/Wunkur**: UNISFA to deploy team to establish Team Site in the agreed location by 10 October 2018.

**1.3. Benchmark 3**

Issues: 1) holding of two JPSM meetings;

2) redeployment of forces outside of the SDBZ

Decisions:

1) **JPSM Meeting**: Convene a regular JPSM meeting in Juba on 12 October 2018.

2) **Redeployment**: The parties agreed that the redeployment would take place from the following the locations by mid-November:

(a) SAF from Lafa Mayom

(b) SAF from Kilo 10 at Joda

(c) SPLA from Wierayen

(d) SPLA from Riankuel

**1.4. Benchmark 4**

Issue: Progress on the opening of the four Phase 1 border crossings.

Decisions:

1) The Parties confirmed that all 10 border crossings are open and safe

2) Each country to establish custom and migration offices

3) UNISFA to verify the functioning of border corridors and the free movement across the border

4) Sensitisation team established under Benchmark 1 to carry out activities in Kosti-El Renk in line with the recommendations of the AUBPTT

5) UNISFA to facilitate the opening of the Timsahah-Buram

**1.5. Benchmark 5**

Issues: (i) Two additional corridors to be identified; (ii) finalizing of plan for remaining corridors

Decisions:

1) Plan for remaining corridors to be presented to the next JPSM meeting on 12 October

2) Parties identified the two additional border crossings as: (i) Kosti-Renk-Nile crossing; (ii) Talodi-Tonja

**1.6. Benchmark 6**

Issue: Meetings of JBC and JDC to take relevant actions

Decision: The AUHIP will act on the matter

**2. Full Operationalisation of the JBVMM**

2.1 The Parties agreed to complete the operationalization of the JBVMM through the following actions:

(i) To open the Sector Headquarters in Buram and Renk

(ii) UNISFA to present a timetable for opening of the above Sector Headquarters, and the corresponding Team Sites, at the next meeting of the JPSM.

**3. Recommitment to sustaining peaceful relations:**

3.1 The Meeting welcomed the continued improvement in relations between the two States, and the role that Sudan has been playing in the mediation of the Revitalised Agreement of the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan. The Parties welcomed, in particular, the continued free movement of persons, goods and services as well as transhumance between the two States, which is in line with the soft border provisions of the Agreement on Border Issues, and the Framework Agreement on Status of Nationals of the other State and pledged to continue to facilitate interactions between the peoples of the two States.

3.2. Both Parties pledged to continue nurturing their relations within the framework of the Cooperation Agreement, 2012.

**4. Next Meeting**

**4.1** The next meeting of the JPSM (Ordinary) will be held in Juba on 12 October 2018.

**Signed in Addis Ababa, this 24th day of September 2018**

Hon. Gen. Kuol Manyang Juuk
Minister of Defence and Veterans' Affairs
Republic of South Sudan
JPSM Co-Chair

Hon. Lt. Gen. (*Psc*) Jamal Eldin Omer Mohamed
On behalf of the Minister for Defence
Republic of Sudan
JPSM acting Co-Chair

Witnessed by:
H.E. President Thabo Mvuyelwa Mbeki
Chairperson AUHIP